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NUMBER I.

Of a New, Useful, and Interesting Periodical Work, intitled,

THE
**BRITISH
MEDICAL JOURNAL,**

CONTAINING

THE EARLIEST INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS OF
MEDICINE, SURGERY, CHEMISTRY, PHARMACY, BOTANY,
AND NATURAL HISTORY.

— Ex Medicina nihil oportet putare proficisci, nisi quod ad utilitatem corporis spectat, quoniam ejus causâ est instituta.

CICERO, *de Inventione, Lib. I.*

PROSPECTUS.

MAGAZINES and other Periodical Works have lately been generally adopted, as vehicles of useful knowledge, more extensive in their effect than any other species of publication. That others are however still wanted to supply the Medical Department of literature, is a fact which has long been obvious to every inquisitive observer.

There is at present no Monthly Journal in the English language, the professed and single design of which is to communicate accounts of every new Observation and valuable Discovery made from time to time in the different branches of Medicine, and still it must be confessed, that an *early circulation* of intelligence so essential to the practitioner, as well as to society in general, has not been attended to, in this country, with the care which the importance of the object required. The present undertaking, therefore, is intended to exhibit a compendious

compendious view of all such matters of fact as lie and remain scattered, at present, through a vast number of expensive and voluminous publications, as well foreign as domestic, and which deserve to be more generally known to the Medical Practitioner.

Considering the important and rapid progress daily made in Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, and other sciences connected with Medicine, it becomes matter of just surprise, that no effectual plan has hitherto been adopted, to furnish the British Public with an accurate Analysis of all the Novelties and Improvements which continually appear in various countries and languages.

To accomplish this desirable purpose, and more fully to illustrate the principles of a science, on the due cultivation of which our enjoyments and even existence so materially depend, is the primary and especial object of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL; a work which, though intended chiefly for the use of the Faculty, will convey such a variety of practical and interesting information, as cannot fail to prove acceptable and useful to every class of readers.

The following outline of the Plan comprehends the different objects to which the attention of the Editors will be principally directed :

- I. Essays on the most important subjects of Medicine, considered with respect to the Origin, Prevention, and Cure of Diseases in general.
- II. Every recent Improvement and Discovery in Botany, Chemistry, Pharmacy, and other medical sciences; accurate accounts of new Remedies, whether they are such as have acquired reputation superior to their merit, or such as deserve to be more generally known and employed.
- III. An abridged view of the prevailing Epidemics of the season; a narrative of their usual progress; directions for the proper diet and regimen to be observed by the patient; together with the most successful method of treating the disorder, agreeably to the state, habit, and constitution of the individual.
- IV. Impartial histories of the most celebrated Patent and other Quack Medicines; and critical investigations of their various pretensions.
- V. Remarkable and authentic Medical Cases, communicated by corresponding Practitioners in all parts of the world, and occasionally extracted from foreign Medical Journals.
- VI. Geographical Descriptions of Countries and Places, written chiefly with a view to appreciate their relative salubrity in point of climate, air, and situation; their local diseases and remedies; their population, mortality, &c.—Speculations upon the defects subsisting in the Medical Police of this and other countries.
- VII. A Review of all new Publications in the various Departments of Medical Science, and a comprehensive Catalogue *Raisonné*, with occasional extracts of characteristic and striking passages.—Under this head will be compressed the substance of every valuable publication, as far as the Practice of Medicine is concerned.
- VIII. All the new appointments of Physicians and Surgeons in the Navy, Army, and Public Hospitals. Accounts of Lectures given in the different branches of the profession, as well in London as in Edinburgh and Dublin.—Lists of Deaths occurring in the medical world.—Biographical Sketches of eminent Medical Characters living and deceased, native and foreign.

- IX. Monthly Tables of the Variations which take place in the wholesale Price of Drugs, and other articles employed in Medicine; hints and cautions how to detect the frequent Adulterations of such substances.
- X. Original Communications to the Editors;—Notice of Medical Works in hand, or in the Press—of new Establishments, &c.
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In conformity with the objects which form the basis of the present undertaking, the Editors respectfully solicit the support of the Public, and principally of the Medical Faculty, to a Work which, while it more particularly claims their attention, cannot fail to be of very considerable use to Society in general.—As practical knowledge, however, can be derived and promoted only by reasoning upon facts, and drawing just conclusions, this Journal can admit neither fanciful hypotheses, nor abstruse speculations; but conjectures which possess the merit of ingenuity and novelty, will not be excluded; as they frequently have a tendency to suggest hints in other respects valuable, and which may be applicable to useful purposes.

Several Medical Gentlemen of acknowledged abilities, and extensive practice, have engaged to communicate the original observations which may occur in the exercise of their profession, in the different Hospitals of the Metropolis, and in various parts of the country. The Conductors, relying on their present and future resources, and anxious to render this publication in every respect worthy of the public patronage, have already, at a very great expence, established a literary correspondence in the principal Cities on the Continents of Europe and America; and they entertain no doubt but Medical Practitioners, wherever the English language is read, will liberally contribute their assistance to a work, in which the whole Faculty are essentially interested.

Besides a variety of other original Articles, the First Number will contain “A comparative View of the principal Theories which have prevailed in Chemistry, since the time of BECHER, who died in the year 1635;” composed originally by the celebrated Dr. FRANK, of Vienna;—“An accurate description of the REAL PLANT and Balm of Gilead; its growth and remarkable properties, for which it has long been celebrated, both as a cosmetic and an internal medicine, among the Oriental Ladies;” with a coloured Plate, representing the *Amyris Gileadensis*; by Professor WILDENOW, of Berlin;—and “A CRITICAL RETROSPECT of the Medical Publications in all parts of Europe, during the year 1798.”

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